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APR 26 2007

Appln No. 10/540,796
S. Guinehut
Office Action made Final dated December 28, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action made Final dated December 28, 2006. This amendment is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

Claims 1-5 and 9 have been cancelled.

Claims 6-8 and 10 have been placed in independent form, including limitations of the previous base claims and any intervening claims, and as such, claims 11-18 now all ultimately depend on currently amended independent claims 8 or 10.

No new matter has been added.

The Currently Amended Newly Independent Claims

Claims 6, 7, 8 and 10 have been amended to show the energy-absorbing case, when used with a bumper beam, where the casing consists of a hollow section piece with a first end attached to the bumper beam and a second end fixed to the end of a longitudinal member of the motor vehicle, along with the previously associated limitations.

USC 112 Rejections

The term "longeron" has been replaced by the English translation "member" through the claims, in line with item 7 of Action of the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully contends that this overcomes any indefiniteness rejections, and that the currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

USC 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 11 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 1-5 and 9 have been cancelled, thereby rendering these rejections moot. Claims 11 and 16 now ultimately depend on newly amended independent claims.

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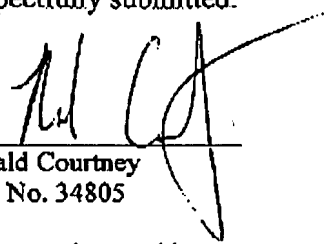
Since claims 8 and 10 are respectfully submitted by applicant as allowable over any 35 USC 103 rejections, and since Applicant contends that the 35 USC 112 rejection is overcome, Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections of these claims are also now rendered moot.

Claims 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11-18 are now respectfully asserted by Applicant to be allowable in independent form, (or depend on allowable claims), and, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests their allowance.

Summary

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-8, 10-18, in their current forms, define the invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution, please be invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

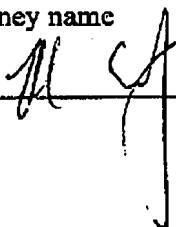
By: 
Ronald Courtney
Reg. No. 34805

Correspondence address:
Valeo, Inc.
Intellectual Property Department
4100 North Atlantic Boulevard
Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326
Tel: (248) 209 84 35 - Fax: (248) 209 82 05

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by
facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents,
Alexandria VA, 22313-1450 on April 26, 2007.

R. Courtney 34805
Attorney name Registration N.



Signature of Attorney